

Remarks and Arguments

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated December 26, 2006 and the references cited therein. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-19, 23, 25-26, 28-29 and 31-36 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,786,918, Krivoruchko et al., hereafter Krivoruchko, already of record, in view of US Patent 6,168,617, Blaeser et al., hereafter Blaeser, already of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite “an inflatable member mounted to the outer tubular member at the stent mounting location, the inflatable member having an interior in fluid communication with the fluid channel” (claim 1, line 20-24). Support for these limitations can be found in the subject application, particularly figures 8 and 10 and their accompanying descriptions. The Examiner has not shown where any of Krivoruchko, Blaeser or Fritz, singularly, or in combinations, teach, disclose, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1 as amended. Claims 2-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-19, 23 include all of the limitations of claim 1 and are likewise believed patentable over the combined teachings of Krivoruchko and Blaeser for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations.

Claims 25, 33 and 34 have been amended similar to recite a limitation similar to that of claim 1 (claim 25, line 16-17; claim 33, line 22-24; claim 34, line 22-24). Claims 32 has been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 25, and 33- 34, as well as their respective dependent claims, are likewise believed patentable over the combined teachings of Krivoruchko, Blaeser and/or Fitz for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations.

Applicants believe the claims are in allowable condition. A notice of allowance for this application is solicited earnestly. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, she is invited to call Applicants’ attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §1.17, and 1.16 to Deposit Account No. 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted,

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